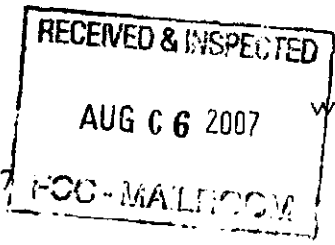
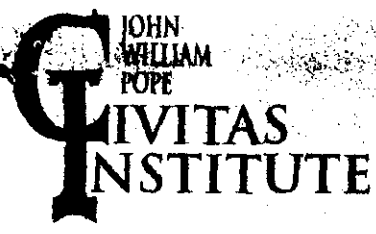


07-57



www.jwpcivitasinstitute.org

July 25, 2007

Mr. Kevin J. Martin  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin,

I am writing about the Sirius Satellite Radio and XM Satellite Radio merger proposal. I am opposed to this merger, and I hope that you will do all that you can to ensure that the FCC denies this application.

I believe this merger will serve only as a bailout for two mismanaged companies who have reported a combined loss of \$1.8 billion. Consumers will no longer have a choice of service provider, leaving the monopoly to set rates and determine programming without the forces of a free market. The quality of reception may suffer if the companies have to squeeze their spectrum to handle more channels. Those customers who carefully compared both providers' programming and chose one over another will probably be forced to pay more just to get what they originally wanted!

The FCC showed remarkable foresight in 1997 when it explicitly forbade these two companies from ever merging. I believe the same level of scrutiny should be given to this proposal so that it will be rejected.

Sincerely,

*Jack Hawke*  
Jack Hawke

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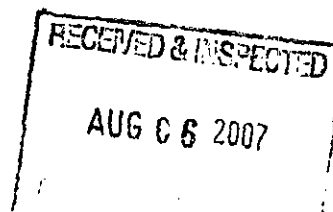
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**JIMMY THORNTON**  
SHERIFF  
SAMPSON COUNTY



01-57  
Sampson Co. Sheriff's Office  
112 Fontana Street  
Clinton, NC 28328

July 30, 2007



Mr. Kevin J. Martin  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin,

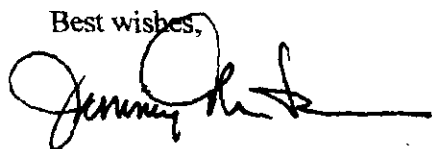
I wanted to send you a short note about the request before the FCC for a merger between XM Radio and Sirius Satellite Radio. This seems like bad policy and a terrible precedent.

The merger of these two companies would remove competition from the satellite radio market since Sirius and XM are the only major companies in the market. The new monopoly would be free to set prices, reduce channel choice and unilaterally dictate programming without having to concern itself with staying competitive. Since many Americans have already invested in satellite radios, they would be forced to pay what the company charges or abandon their expensive receiver altogether.

Perhaps one of the groups that will be most negatively affected by this proposed merger is those people in rural areas like Sampson County. Most of our citizens are limited in the number of radio stations they can receive. Satellite radio provides them with a choice in how they receive their news, music and sports. Having two satellite companies gives them greater choice. A merger of the two companies would reduce their choices and potentially increase the cost to those people already subscribing to their services.

I hope you agree with my assessment of this situation and hope you will work to block this merger proposal.

Best wishes,

  
Jimmy Thornton

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